

THE POLYNESIAN.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT HONOLULU, OAHU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

J. JARVES, Editor.

SATURDAY, JULY 31, 1841.

Vol. 2.—No. 8.

POETRY.

For the Polynesian.

RECOLLECTIONS OF A FRIEND.

My thought of thee is aye combin'd
With loveliest things on earth we find,
With living gems of lustre rare,
With flowers, of hues surpassing fair;
With snow-wreath of the purest white,
Just tinged with blush of moon's sweet light,
With dews of heaven so free from stain
It seems just fit for heaven again!
Thy feelings are as fresh and rife
With love—as in the morn of life;
And still 'mid grief's un pitying shower
Glow with a more celestial power.
As flowers a sweeter breath diffuse
When beat to earth with heavy dews,
Thy form and features so refined,
Seem a fit garment for thy mind;
And all thy face, with feelings fraught,
No changes—with each change of thought;
And with its mind-illum'd rays,
Each movement of thy soul betrays;
That like a radiant veil it seems
To wrap—yet grace its angel gleam.
Oh! bound in dulness' firmest fold!
Who could that beaming face behold,
So sweetly pale—so meekly bright,
Could hear those mild, beseeching words,
Sweet as the notes of warbling birds,
Or mark etherial tones at eve
That through the wind-harp softly breathe,
Nor feel a gentle influence roll,
Sad, yet delightful, o'er his soul—
Nor wish to feel as she has felt—
Nor kneel in prayer, as she has knelt,
Nor feel the balm that breathes from Heaven
In those sweet words, "Thou art forgiv'n!"

GABRIELLA.

SELECTED.

From the Chinese Repository for Feb. 1841.

CHINA NEWS.

No. 1.—Circular to Her Majesty's subjects.

The imperial minister and high commissioner having failed to conclude the treaty of peace, lately agreed upon by H. M.'s plenipotentiary, within the allotted period, hostilities were resumed yesterday afternoon. A Chinese force, employed under cover of a masked battery and strong field-work, in blocking up a channel of the river at the back of Anunghoy, was dislodged, the obstruction effectually cleared away, the guns in battery and deposit, amounting to about 80 pieces of various calibre, rendered unservicable, and the whole of the military materiel destroyed. This effective service was accomplished without loss, in two hours, by Captain Herbert, of H. M.'s ship Calliope, having under his command the steam vessel Nemesis, and pinnaces of H. M.'s ships Calliope, Samarang, Herald, and Alligator. The extent of the enemy's loss has not been ascertained.

On board H. M.'s ship Calliope, off South Wangtung, Feb. 24, 1841.

(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT, H. M.'s Plenipotentiary.

No. 2.—To Her Majesty's subjects.

The batteries of the Bocca Tigris have this day fallen to her majesty's forces. Several hundred prisoner's have been captured, the enemy is in flight in all directions, and no loss reported up to this hour on our side.

H. M. ship Calliope, off North Wangtung, 26th Feb. 3 P. M.

(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT, H. M.'s Plenipotentiary.

No. 3.—Public Notice.

H. M.'s ship Wellesley, at anchor off North Wangtung, 20th Feb. 1841.
The batteries of the Bocca Tigris hav-

ing this day fallen to her majesty's arms. notice is hereby given that all British and foreign merchant vessels are permitted to repair to that point, and that they will be allowed to proceed higher, as soon as it is ascertained that the river is clear of all obstructions. (Signed)

J. J. G. BREMER, Commander-in-Chief.

This failure to conclude the treaty of peace, this *perfidy with interruption of negotiations*, can be rightly understood only when viewed in connection with the whole course of events since the arrival here of H. B. M.'s expedition last June. Its objects were to obtain redress and indemnity for the past, with securities and immunities for the future. However; the instructions to the plenipotentiaries not having been here published, their import can only be conjectured from what has transpired. It should be carefully borne in mind, as we proceed, that *to make war on the Chinese*, formed professedly no part of the objects of the expedition, provided its ends could be secured by other means; consequently a trial of pacific measures must needs first be made.

The first question with the plenipotentiaries was (or appears to have been) whether the forts at the Bogue should be demolished or left standing, while they with the naval and military force should move northward. The feeling of the British and foreign community here was almost unanimous in favor of the first measure; they chose the latter, and wisely—at least so we are inclined to think.

It having been determined on—we presume in accordance with instructions from the queen's government at home—to take immediate possession of Chusan, an advanced force under Commodore Bremer moved forward for that purpose. The plenipotentiaries, with the remainder of the expedition, followed soon after.—When off the coast of Fuhkeen, one of the vessels, bearing a flag of truce, was sent with a despatch to the port of Amoy. The ship was fired on, and the communication refused. As Chinese policy forbade the reception of this despatch, it would have been wise, perhaps, not to have given opportunity for the committal of such an outrage.

As to the right and expediency of occupying Tinghae—which fell on the 5th of July, we have been in doubt. Indeed, the occupation of any insular position has always seemed to us objectionable. There may have been reasons for, and advantages resulting from, taking Chusan, of which we are ignorant; but judging from what we know, it would have been better to have rendezvoused at some small island (of the size of Shachow in this vicinity). This would have prevented the long detention of the expedition at Chusan, and would have allowed the entire force to have gone up—a part upon the Yangtze keang, and a part to the mouth of the Pei ho, early in July; and at these two positions—the nearest to the court that it was possible for them to reach—the forces should have remained until all questions at issue were settled. "Let us—a great desideratum"—says Mr Warren, "penetrate to Peking, and learn what is the real state of things there; and let us cheerfully yield to what we shall find to be the reasonable and just wishes of the emperor." So we have always argued; and accordingly would have abstained from attacking Chusan, and from every other hostile act, save only to lay on a blockade. A different course was resolved on, and it may have been the right one. With its

principal details, our readers are familiar. After a month's delay, and the rejection of Lord Palmerston's communication by the provincial authorities, the plenipotentiaries proceeded north, and arrived off the mouth of the Pei ho, August 9th.—The presence of so large a squadron, (though not the half it might have been) so near the capital, had no small effect. The tone of the imperial government was changed, and in correspondence it became respectful and courteous and pacific. No doubt the blow on Chusan helped to produce this effect; and perhaps it may on this account be justified. Negotiations soon commenced between the plenipotentiaries and the imperial minister Keshen. The twice rejected letter was at once received; a long interview was held; and at length it was agreed, that Keshen should meet the plenipotentiaries at Canton, that half the forces should immediately withdraw from Chusan, and hostilities cease all along the coast.

The emperor's participation in this agreement, is fully attested by H. I. M.'s own edict, dated September 17th at Peking, appointing Keshen high commissioner, and ordering his officers in the provinces to observe the armistice.

The accepting of this agreement was an act of great generosity on the part of the plenipotentiaries, who, at the moment the edict above alluded to was being issued, were on their return with the squadron to Chusan. There they found that the Kite had been lost, and that her crew, with others, had fallen into the hands of the Chinese. Unwilling to do aught that could infringe the agreement with the emperor, the prisoners were left at Ningpo, while they with half their forces returned to Canton. They arrived here November 20th, Keshen soon after, and negotiations were resumed.

The armistice agreed on with the emperor, it should be remarked here *en passant*, was of a somewhat doubtful nature; doubtful, we say, because it became necessary for the plenipotentiaries to obtain a new one for Chusan before leaving that neighborhood; because, immediately upon their arrival here, one of their vessels was fired on from the Chinese guns at Chuenpe; and because the blockade was not raised. For firing on the flag of truce, ample apology was made, and negotiations went on.

At this early period, *apparently* there was but one sentiment prevailing on all sides. The troops at Ningpo were being disbanded; the people began to return to the city of Tinghae; and Keshen, in a very generous manner, released Mr Stanton and others who had been prisoners at Canton. Such were the friendly appearances early in December.

His excellency governor Lin, the principal agent in the offensive acts complained of, had already been displaced and censured by his master. Filled with chagrin, this true son of Han and strong supporter of all the objectionable principles of his country's policy, just before delivering up the seals of his office, addressed a long and very passionate memorial to the throne, urging hostilities. This, which he circulated widely among his friends in various parts of the country, was quickly followed by others of similar spirit. They took effect. The mild sovereign paused; vacillated; and then *changed* his purposes—so, at least, we are constrained to think. The first indication of this change which came under our observation was

"An imperial edict issued on the 14th day of the 12th month of the 20th year of Taoukwang (January 6th, 1841).

"To-day Lew Yunho has reported by memorial, that having gone in person to Chinhae, he made faithful inquiry concerning the dispositions of foreigners, &c. Keshen has also reported, concerning the dispositions of the foreigners at Canton that they appear more *solent* and overbearing. Already our instructions have been given to all the generals, governors, and lieut. governors to increase the strength of their defences, and to be timely prepared for sudden attack. The provincial city of Chekeang is a place of much importance; whatever measures are requisite for Tinghae, let Lew Yunho in concert with Elepoo faithfully deliberate upon and draw out, and then immediately return to the provincial city, and instruct the civil and military officers there to maintain strong defences. If the said foreigners come again to present any petitions, let them all be utterly rejected; should any of their ships sail near the ports on the coast, at once let matchlocks and artillery be opened, and the thundering attack be made dreadful. There must be no wavering, so as to exhibit the slightest degree of awe or fear. Respect this."

Such was the imperial pleasure on the 6th of January. It virtually nullified the armistice announced in his edict of Nov. 17th. At Chusan, under the administration of Lew Yunho, the new lieut. governor, affairs had already changed for the worse, and the people of Tinghae were abandoning the city and carrying off their effects. Here Keshen—according to his estimation—having "with a liberal hand granted a measure of what was desired," faltered. The action of the 7th followed; and the cession of Hongkong, an indemnity of six millions of dollars, direct official intercourse upon terms of equality in favor of the English, the restoration of Chuenpe and Chusan to the Chinese, their return of prisoners, &c., were agreed on, in due form. The squadron immediately withdrew from the Bogue, which was to have been attacked on the 8th, and the two captured forts were restored. Despatches were hastened up for the speedy evacuation of Chusan. Formal possession was taken of Hongkong. Trade with Canton was opened on or before the 1st of February, and a treaty signed on or before the 20th of the same month.

From the Chinese Repository for March, 1841.

Referring the reader to the preceding article for an account of the progress of the war, we will here briefly describe the situation of the expedition as we now find it, nine months after its arrival. Though no one of its great objects has yet been gained, it does not follow of course that it has been badly conducted, or that no advantages have been secured. By pursuing a pacific line of action, and reducing the demands to the lowest point, an experiment of great value has been made: before all nations the Chinese have now proved themselves to be—what long ago many believed they were—false, faithless, impotent, merciless, hostile to all the world, in a degree far beyond what has generally been supposed. It is now clear, clear as the sun—that the Chinese government will yield nothing to, nor keep any faith with, foreign states, except by constraint. Happily this constraint they already begin to feel; and it is devoutly to be wished, that this may be continued on them until they are well established in their right position among the great nations of the earth. We admire the moderation and generosity that have been displayed by the commander-in-chief and